

Telegraphic News.

Ottawa, Dec. 13.
The 'Gazette' to-day contains two appointments, Henry Higham, Chief of River Police and H. Chaloner Shipping Master at Quebec. Excess of specie on hand nearly \$300,000. Reform club held meeting last night and decided to support Mayor Martineau, who consents to oppose Dr. Hill.

Martineau in his card to day announces himself as independent of either party.

Mackenzie and five other cabinet ministers have rented a house and are keeping bachelor's hall.

Neither the death of Senator Locke nor Steeves makes any vacancy, as Maritime Provinces were allowed four extra Senators until Island entered Union. You have yet two Senators.

A mass meeting of working men is to be held in Toronto, to night, will be addressed, by Milton, M. P., from Hamilton.

Boston, Dec. 13.
Prof. Agassiz, the greatest naturalist of the age, died last night at his residence, Cambridge, after an illness of a few days.

England has asked France to facilitate an inquiry into the Ville du Havre disaster, and has offered to defray the expenses of British witnesses. France has accepted the offer, and promises that the investigation shall be searching and complete.

The Government of Switzerland has decided to hand the Papal Nuncio his passports on account of the Pope's last Encyclical letter.

Bazaine has addressed a letter to his counsel, thanking them for the efforts in his behalf, and concluding as follows: "I shall not appeal against the sentence, not wishing to prolong, in the eyes of the world, the spectacle of such a painful struggle. I request you take no further steps. I look no longer to men for judgment. Strong in my conscience, which reproaches me with nothing, I confidently await the justification which will come with the lapse of time and the subsidence of party passions."

London, Dec. 13.
Fourteen persons have been found drowned in the docks since the fog. Many other fatal accidents reported.

Ship Arabia, from Calcutta for Boston, has foundered at sea. Thirteen of the crew were drowned. Remainder were rescued by the tug Tropic, from Kingston, Jamaica, and landed at Gravesend.

The Allan Steamers.

It is well known that the contract between the Grand Trunk Road and the Allan steamers will shortly expire. The Grand Trunk, as we understand the matter, are desirous of transporting their own freight across the Atlantic. They see no reason why they should not pocket the profits, as well as Sir Hugh. The road is spending a great deal of money to put itself in first rate condition and has changed, or is fast changing, its gauge for its greater advantage. It has been stated what an amount of freight is concentrated here and is on the way. Now a few years ago the boat was on the other leg and some of Sir Hugh's steamers had to go over in ballast because the road could not supply the freight and the merchants here found their western trade blocked, so it was no object for the Grand Trunk to compete with the Allan line.

It will take some time for the Atlantic and Gulf wharves to be rebuilt and when they are completed, if we are not misinformed, the Grand Trunk wish to occupy them with their own steamers. This is natural. On the other hand the new road from Montreal to Swanton, connecting with the Portland and Ogdensburg and Eastern will form another and cheaper outlet for western freight which can be supplied to Sir Hugh's line. What Sir Hugh will require will be wharf room.

The Boy O'Connor.

Most of your readers will recollect (remember) a London letter writer the boy O'Connor, who went with a broken and unloaded pistol to frighten the Queen into signing a pardon for the Fenian prisoners. And many of them will remember the trial, at which the defence of insanity was set up unsuccessfully, and the verdict of guilty, which was followed by a sentence of one year's imprisonment in the house of correction, with 25 lashes with the cat.

I hear that the sentence was not carried out, that he never was subjected to hard labor, that he did not receive any flogging, that the term of his imprisonment was reduced from twelve to eight months, and that at the end of that time he received an outfit from Government and went out to Australia.

The reason for this clemency is said by some to be the kind interest which Her Majesty took in the boy, and by others to be the fact, which they assert was discovered when he was sent to Clerkenwell, that he was insane, and that the verdict was against the weight of evidence. However that may be, I hear that he is in Australia at the present time, and has recently sent three letters in verse to the Queen, that he regards these verses as incomparably better than any of his previous efforts, and that he is earning a small weekly salary, not, however, by means of poetry, but by performing the duties of a clerk in some merchant's office. I hope sincerely he may remain there.

JAPANESE MINT OPERATIONS.—The second annual report of Mr. Kinder, late of her Majesty's Mint at Hongkong, and now Director of the Imperial Mint at Osaka, has just been received, and shows the activity and regularity with which the coinage operations of Japan are carried on. It appears that the gold coins struck during the year amounted to a value of about five millions sterling, and those of silver to about \$800,000, the aggregate number of pieces passed for issue being 26,151,205, being an increase on the previous year of 10,647,223 in the number of coins, and

of £1,600,000 in value. The design of the coinage has been changed so as to indicate the value in large Japanese characters on the reverse while on the obverse the value has been introduced in Roman characters. The denominations of the gold pieces are equal respectively to about £4, £2, £1, 10s., and 4s., while of silver they range from 4s. downwards. In concluding his report Mr. Kinder remarks that it is encouraging to be able to state that the Japanese and the European officials work harmoniously, and the operations are well conducted and also very regular in their attendance.

THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S DINNER.

will be held at Morrison's Hotel, on THURSDAY, 18TH INSTANT, at 6 1/2 o'clock, P. M.

The Standard.

SAINT ANDREWS, DEC. 17, 1873.

Government in Session—Meeting of the Legislature.

As intimated in our last edition, the Local Government met in Session on Wednesday, and determined among other business the meeting of the Legislature, which we learn from the "Daily News," is to take place for the despatch of business on

THURSDAY, 27th FEBRUARY.

this, we may rely upon, as the Editor of the "News" is a member of the Government, and is consequently authority.

The Government also appear desirous to promote the construction of Railways, an excellent policy, and one which will commend itself to the constituencies. They will introduce a Bill for granting a subsidy on certain conditions—of \$5,000 per mile to aid the construction of projected lines, such as the Great Shore Line, from St. Stephen via St. George to St. John, from Fredericton to Chatham, from Gagetown to Western Extension, and other projected roads. These undertakings are proposed by the people, who also claim such subsidy as the Government can give without crippling the Province. As a matter of course, such expenditures will lead to increased taxation, but they will also increase the income. It is to be hoped that the aid given will be in money, and not in land, as large tracts of the most valuable timber and farming lands are already locked up by Railway companies. We agree with the views expressed by Mr. Jenkin in his address on Immigration. It is bad policy to give or sell immense tracts of country to a few individuals, as in time it will lead, as it is fast doing, to a landed aristocracy, if we may use the term, and drive the poor emigrant a long distance back from the centres of population, to encounter difficulties, which he otherwise would not be subjected to. The general Immigration policy of the Government is a good one, and has, so far, proved beneficial to the Province. It no doubt can be made more perfect, for as remarked by Mr. Jenkin—"it was a mistake to offer free grants of land. People do not care for that which they get for nothing." This however, we cheerfully acknowledge, that one of its most active members, the Hon. Mr. Stevenson, deserves the thanks of his constituents and the Province generally, for his superior executive ability, in so successfully carrying out its Immigration policy.

Another matter under consideration of the Council was the location of the Riviere du Loup Railway, from Woodstock upwards, a subject which we fully discussed in our leader on Wednesday last. We quote from the "News":

"Though no formal conclusion has been arrived at, it seems to be the opinion of the Government that the route adopted is in the valley of the River St. John according to the true meaning of the Act, and as near to the bank of that river as the configuration of the country will allow, having proper regard to the cost of construction. On this last named point, Mr. Perley's report speaks very decidedly."

This may be correct in the eyes of the shareholders, but others believe differently. Was it not the distinct understanding by the Legislature and people, that the gauge was to be the same as the Intercolonial and Fredericton Branch? Have they not reduced the gauge to 3 feet 6 inches, thereby reducing the cost of construction; and they get Government aid amounting to \$20,000 a mile, while 5 feet 6 in. Railways only received \$5,700 per mile, notwithstanding the large increase in cost of equipment, &c. In addition to all this, the River du Loup railway takes passengers from Woodstock to Edmundston five miles up river, then back five miles up a heavy grade, and then out to the river again at Hartland, traveling 19 miles, while the distance by the river is 11 miles. We should like to know if Railway men are to control the Province politically and commercially.

Illness of Rev. P. Keny.

With feelings of much regret, we announce the Rev. Mr. Keny was so unwell on Sabbath morning last, that he was obliged to stop a short time after commencing his sermon, and intimate to the congregation, that he was unable to continue Divine Service, from sickness. The announcement was received by his hearers, with the deepest feelings of sorrow, which are shared in by the community generally. The beloved and faithful Pastor of the Scotch Church, it is regretted to add, thoroughly prostrated from his unceasing and arduous ministerial labors in town and country, not having had assistance, nor rest, for the past six years. We are pained to add, that it will be some time, before he will be able to resume his ministerial office, even should his health permit of his doing so, which, however, is uncertain at the present; indeed it is not probable that his strength

will admit of his again resuming the onerous duties of his office, which is deeply lamented by his congregation and many others in the community. It will be a difficult matter to obtain a clergyman who can supply his place in the Church and community.

THE SHORE LINE.—We are pleased to notice that our St. George friends are preparing for legislative action with reference to this necessary undertaking. At a meeting recently held at St. George, the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to get the Petition signed, which was adopted at the large meeting held a couple of months ago, and have it forwarded to the Legislature, viz: Messrs. A. H. Gillmor, S. Johnson, H. Lodge, J. E. Lynott, John A. McCann, W. K. Reynolds and Thomas Barry. It is to be hoped that the Petition will be largely signed, and that a powerful deputation will visit Fredericton early in the Session—that no stone will be left unturned to secure all the facilities there can be judiciously granted, for the accomplishment of this great and much needed public work. We greatly mistake the push, energy, and pluck of our St. George friends, if they do not succeed in their patriotic and praiseworthy efforts, to wipe out the blot of "isolation" from the rest of the Province and Dominion. We wish them abundant success, and will on another occasion, refer to the "Shore Line."

The Agricultural Society's Dinner, as advertised in another column, will be held to-morrow, Thursday, at Morrison's Hotel, to celebrate the Fifty Fourth Anniversary of the Society. We trust the farmers will be largely represented on the occasion. Dinner on the table at 6 1/2 P. M.

TEA MEETING.—The Ladies of the Methodist Church, here, held a Tea Meeting in Stevenson's Hall, on Monday and Tuesday evenings. The attendance on both evenings notwithstanding the shortness of the notice, was much larger than could have been expected; the tables were well supplied with tea, coffee, cake and other good things, to which ample justice was done. We understand that \$75 was realized from the entertainments.

The letter of "a Churchman" will be seen in another column. He is deservedly severe on some person in the community, whom he suspects of being guilty of "scattering firebrands" among the members of All Saints' Church, and whom he also says the dastardly act of having desecrated the Church twelve months ago, was imputed. It is to be regretted, that the perpetrator of that disgraceful act has not been brought to justice. We have seen the "Circular" alluded to by our correspondent, and cannot conceive, that any but a weak minded person would act on the suggestion of "expunging" the Cross. We do not desire or intend to take part in the discussion on its use or abuse. It would be well for the writer of the "Circular" to read, mark, and inwardly digest the quotation which he gives from John iv. 24.

The letter of "Boreas" is received. It is better adapted for the Weather Bureau at Ottawa than for a newspaper. With some of his positions we agree, while from others we dissent. If he will call at this office he can see the official weather reports referred to in his letter.

The Hon. PETER MITCHELL is as popular when out of office, as when he was Minister of Marine and Fisheries. A large number of the citizens of St. John gave him a grand Sleigh drive on Monday, and in the evening a dinner at the Victoria Hotel; after the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were disposed of, Mr. Mitchell responded to his health, which had been proposed by the chairman; he alluded to his political life, and concluded an eloquent speech, by looking hopefully forward to again holding office.

The death of the eminent naturalist and scientist, Professor Agassiz, took place at Cambridge, Mass., on the evening of the 14th inst. The death of this illustrious and distinguished man is a public calamity. He was a native of Switzerland, and 66 years old.

Dr. HAYES, the celebrated Arctic explorer, has been editing and delighting the citizens of St. John with lectures on Polar Sea and region. His lectures are highly commended in the city journal.

The Ministerial Candidate Mr. Moss triumphed at Toronto west, over the opposition candidate Mr. Bickford, the vote stood Moss 1,560, Bickford 1,040. The Ministers and their candidates have all been elected. The Opposition have declared their intention to offer no factions opposition, but support all good measures. At the same time they will keep a sharp look out, and the Cabinet will have some difficult questions to dispose of, which will require statesmanship and tact.

The "Jerome Artists and Royal Marionettes," whose performance here last week gave such satisfaction, are to exhibit in the Mechanics' Institute, St. John, to-morrow, Friday and Saturday, under Mr. Wm. Nannery, and will no doubt be well patronized.

Every artisan and agriculturist would benefit himself by taking the "Scientific American." It is useful in every workshop and family. The Prospectus for 1874 will be seen in another column. Subscriptions received at the STANDARD OFFICE.

The weather is precarious—one day mild, with rain, the following day cold, and the next snow. There is now tolerable clearing.

The Hon. Alex. Keith, President of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia, and Grand Master

of Freemasons in that Province, is dead, aged 78. He was a native of Cathlamet, Scotland, and came to Nova Scotia when a young man, where, from small beginnings he realized a fortune by brewing. He was popular among Masons, and respected by all who knew him.

To the Editor of the Standard.

DEAR SIR.—You will remember that about a year ago you had occasion to notice in your paper, a great act of desecration committed by some miscreant in All Saints' Church, in this town, and that a reward was offered by the Church Wardens for the discovery of the perpetrator, but without success. I had hoped that the malignant and diabolical feeling then evinced, and which was commonly imputed to a well known individual, had met with such general reprobation throughout the whole community, that it would not again be likely to show itself; but I regret to find, that within the last few days Printed Circulars of a blasphemous character have been circulated through the Post Office, among the members of the congregation of that Church, which convince me, that the same person is again at work endeavoring at a season, when if ever men's hearts ought to be disposed to entertain peace and good will towards their fellow men, to scatter firebrands among them, and excite party feeling and ill-will.

It is not there is too much good sense and good feeling among the church men and church women of this town, to permit their being influenced by such mean and despicable attempts to persuade them to blaspheme the Cross as an emblem of their faith, and I can assure the individual who has taken the trouble to circulate his anonymous slanders on that Cross, that he is too well known in this community, to have any influence with the true members of a Church which he professes to belong to, but in reality does not believe in.

A. C. MURCHMAN.

St. Andrews, 12th December, 1873.

BALLOU'S MAGAZINE FOR JANUARY.—The January number of Ballou's Monthly Magazine is issued, and a remarkable good magazine it is, when we consider that it contains 100 pages of reading matter, and is only \$1.50 per year, or 15 cents single copies. Cheap as this is the publisher sends to each subscriber a pretty little Chromo. The contents of the January number of Ballou's consist of a New Year's story of great interest, several excellent short stories, some remarkable poetry, the commencement of a story for children, more of "An Unfortunate Match," and the ending of the thrilling novelette, "The Ghost of Helder Hall," a romance that has pleased every one. There is variety enough to suit most any taste, so we do not wonder at the popularity of Ballou's Magazine, as it is just what the people want and will have. Address Thomas & Talbot, 36 Broadfield Street, Boston.

Ottawa, Dec. 13.

The Montreal Times says the Minister of Finance is about to recall Dominion bank notes as the first step of his policy; there is no foundation for the story.

London, Dec. 24.

The steamer Binafa, at Liverpool from the Gold Coast, reports the condition of the men in the British fleet there very unhealthy. On two vessels fifty-seven men were down with fever. Advice of Nov 16 state that Sir Garnet Wolseley was on board the ship "Simoon," suffering from fever. He had been ill six days. The medical staff declared the attack slight.

New York, Dec. 11.

Preparations for the surrender of the Virginians and 1st prisoners by Spain to the United States are progressing favorably. The vessel Bahia, Honduras; and the prisoners are on their way to that place. President Grant declines to accept the resignation of G. N. Scales as Minister to Spain.

Gold 110 1/2.

Elizabeth, Queen Dowager of Prussia, is dead, aged 72.

Henry Selfridge Page Winterbotham, M. P. for the Strand, and under Secretary for the Home Department, is dead.

The ex-Empress Eugenie is deeply affected by the verdict and sentence in the case of Marshal Bazaine. Her agitation is so great that she has been compelled to postpone the visit she was about to make to Queen Victoria.

The latest advices from the Cape of Good Hope say that the indications of a Kaffir outbreak in Natal are increasing. The native chiefs have leagued together and are threatening war against the whites.

THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN ON THE TEMPERANCE PLEDGE.—The Bishop of Lincoln has actually preached a sermon in his cathedral against the Temperance Pledge. He denounced it as unscriptural. He said that it "undermined the godhead of Christ"—which at least is a curious figure. The Bishop, said the Bishop, that Timothy had been a pledged man, whom advised by St. Paul to use a little wine for his stomach's sake, would he not have injured his health and inflicted damage on the cause of truth by refusing to follow the apostolic advice? Moreover, according to the Bishop, the Pledge "tends to lying," and "it is a deadly sin for Christians to sign it." The Bishop's sermon, naturally enough, was quoted with the warmest approbation at the Licensed Victualler's Dinner in the Crystal Palace.

The little kingdom of Holland holds about a hundred and sixty millions of dollars in American railroad bonds and stocks, exclusive of all other securities issued in the States. Of this amount the annual interest due, but not paid, is estimated at \$1,000,000. Besides railroad securities, they hold large amounts of United States bonds, State bonds and other American securities, the total value of the latter not being definitely fixed, but it certainly sums up more than a hundred millions of dollars.

DISTINCTIVE SPELLING.—That appliance of a Railway Train which serves the Engineer of a public road is called a Brake. Why? Because Railways were, a brake on the form, brand,

and, an instrument for dressing linen or flax, the handle of a ship's pump, and a taker's kneeling trough. None of these things arrest progress. A contrivance to break speed, if denominated from its use, should be named a Break Orthography, perhaps, is violated to mark a distinction between the Railway Brake and the Railway break down, and breaking of bones, which the break too often proves inad-quate to avert.—[Punch]

GRAND TRUNK.—More cars left Gorham, N. H., for Portland Monday via the Grand Trunk than at any time in the history of the road. Furthermore there are a number of freight cars along the line waiting a chance to come in, and 840 car loads here waiting shipment. The largest Atlantic steamers take only 130 car loads, while the smallest, like the North American, carry only 90 car loads. There are 1250 car loads now on the way to Portland this side of Montreal.

FIRE.—About nine o'clock Tuesday night a man residing near the Grand Trunk depot in Falmouth saw a bright light issuing from the station and proceeding to the spot, discovered that the door had been burst open and the interior was in flames. Assistance was procured and the station agent's looks, tickets, etc., were saved but the building was totally consumed. It was valued at about \$300.

—The British Quarterly Review recently arrived at the conclusion that one invention to which America may lay indisputable claim is that of tarring and feathering as a punishment for offenders.

Ship News.

PORT OF ST. ANDREWS.

Dec. 11, schr. Wm. Todd, Wood, St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica, 143 267 ft. pine boards.

1873. CHRISTMAS. 1873.

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STOLEN! A Set of new Bibles, chased them, or who knows of such having been offered for sale, will confer a favor on the owner, by leaving such information at the STANDARD OFFICE.

Dec. 17, 1873.